



**GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION**

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DEAN SHELTON, CHAIRMAN  
STEPHANIE SHIMAZU  
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**DATE:** December 3, 2008

**TO:** BINGO MANUFACTURERS AND SUPPLIERS

**SUBJECT:** NEW LAW REQUIRING BINGO LICENSURE AND CARD-MINDING DEVICE APPROVAL PURSUANT TO SB 1369 (Cedillo and Battin, Chapter 748, Statutes of 2008)

SB 1369, effective on January 1, 2009, requires the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) to license any person who directly or indirectly manufactures, distributes, supplies, vends, leases or otherwise provide supplies, devices, services, or other equipment designed for use in playing of remote caller bingo games by nonprofit organizations. The bill also requires the Commission to license and register any person that directly or indirectly manufactures, distributes, supplies, vends, leases or otherwise provides card-minding devices or other supplies, equipment or services related to card-minding devices designed for use in other bingo games by nonprofit organizations. In addition, the bill requires the Commission to approve all card-minding devices in advance.

The Commission is advising all interested parties of the new California bingo requirements that go into effect January 1, 2009, as it applies to:

- 1) Advance approval of bingo card-minding devices; and,
- 2) Letter of intent to submit a license application.

**Card-minding Device Approval**

The Commission is required to approve card-minding devices in advance of use in the playing of any bingo game. The Commission is preparing emergency regulations that require card-minding device manufacturers to certify that their card-minding devices meet the following specifications listed in SB 1369:

1. Are capable of storing in the memory of the device bingo faces of tangible cards purchased by a player;
2. Provide a means for bingo players to input manually each individual number or symbol announced by a live caller;
3. Compare the numbers or symbols entered by the player to the bingo faces previously stored in the memory of the device;
4. Identify winning bingo patterns that exist on the stored bingo faces;
5. Are not capable of accepting or dispensing any coins, currency, or other representative of value or on which value has been encoded;
6. Are not capable of monitoring any bingo card face other than the faces of the tangible bingo card or cards purchased by the play for that game;
7. Do not display or represent the game result through any means, including, but not limited to, video or mechanical reels or other slot machine or casino game themes, other than highlighting the winning numbers or symbols marked or covered on the tangible

bingo cards or giving an audio alert that the player's card has a prize-winning pattern;  
and

8. Do not determine the outcome of any game or be physically or electronically connected to any component that determines the outcome of a game or to any other bingo equipment, including, but not limited to, the ball call station, or to any other card-minding device.

These regulations are scheduled to be considered at the December 11, 2008, Commission meeting. Please refer to the Commission's website ([www.cgcc.ca.gov](http://www.cgcc.ca.gov)) for additional information on this meeting.

Please refer to Penal Code section 326.5(p) within the bill for the specific language concerning card-minding device approval. SB 1369 is available online via the California Legislative Counsel's website at [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov).

Letter of Intent to Submit Application

To effectively implement this new law in a timely manner, the Commission is seeking information from bingo manufacturers and suppliers that plan to submit applications. SB 1369 authorizes persons to submit a letter of intent to the Commission, beginning January 31, 2009, indicating their interest in submitting a future application for licensure. As the Commission plans to implement interim regulations to expedite the implementation of remote caller bingo, we are requesting that you submit your letter of intent by January 2, 2009. Please see Attachment A for a sample format for letters of intent.

The Commission intends to approve card-minding devices on an interim basis until such time as specific criteria have been established to test and certify these devices. In order to ensure future communication regarding the implementation of SB 1369 are sent directly to your company; please provide the information indicated in the attached sample letter.

Thank you for assisting in the implementation of SB 1369. If you have questions regarding card-minding device approval, please contact Rachel Lucero at (916) 263-4795. If you have questions regarding manufacturer/supplier registration or licensure, please contact Tina Littleton, Acting Deputy Director, Licensing Division at (916) 263-4787.

Sincerely,

Terresa A. Cia  
Executive Director

Attachment

cc: Non-profit organizations  
Bingo Halls

## **Attachment A**

### **California Gambling Control Commission**

#### **Sample Letter of Intent to Submit an Application for Registration or Licensure as a Bingo Manufacturer/Supplier**

Please include the following:

1. Legal name of the principal applicant/company;
2. Name, address, telephone number and email address of principal applicant; and
3. All categories under which the application will be filed:  
Any person who directly or indirectly:
  - Manufactures
  - Distributes
  - Supplies
  - Vends
  - Leases
  - Provides supplies, devices, services or other equipment (designed for use in playing. (It would be helpful if you include a copy of your catalog of supplies, equipment, etc.)
4. Estimate of the frequency with which you may provide any category of service to conduct remote caller bingo operations; and
5. Estimate of the number of locations where you may provide any category of service for remote caller bingo games.

Letters may be mailed to:

California Gambling Control Commission  
TSP – Remote Caller Bingo  
2399 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 220  
Sacramento, CA 95833